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## OLR Bill Analysis

### sHB 5310

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill increases the minimum fine, from \$5 to \$500, and the maximum fine, from \$100 to \$2,500, for (1) interfering with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) director's duties or (2) violating quarantines or CAES regulations. By law, the CAES director is in charge of controlling insects or diseases that threaten plants of economic importance (e.g., emerald ash borer). He may (1) prohibit or regulate the transport of plants and plant material likely to carry dangerous pests and (2) enforce other provisions of the law concerning plant and insect disease and infestation.

The CAES is managed by an eight-member board of control. By law, the board must direct the CAES to make scientific inquiries, perform experiments, and perform analyses for other state agencies. The bill requires the CAES to perform these duties within available resources.

Lastly, the bill explicitly allows the CAES director, in carrying out his statutory duties, to issue permits or enter into compliance agreements with any party.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (03/04/2013)